

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 10747

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, MPOL, NATO

SUBJ: RATIONALIZATION OF NATO DEFENSE

REF: STATE 123914

1. PAUL LEVER, DEFENSE DEPARTMENT, FCO, IN A DISCUSSION ON 9 JULY WITH EMBOFF ON RATIONALIZATION/STANDARDIZATION, MADE SOME POINTS WHICH ARE RELEVANT TO REFTEL. ADDRESSING THE ISSUE OF MILITARY DOCTRINE (REFTEL, PARA 4C) LEVER OBSERVED THAT "IMPERFECT THOUGH CNAD IS" ANY MOVE TO DIMINISH ITS ROLE "RUNS COUNTER TO STRONG FEELINGS IN MOD" WHICH LOOKS UPON CNAD AS "A VERY USEFUL FORUM PARTICULARLY SINCE FRANCE IS A PARTICIPANT". LEVER STRESSED THAT AS FAR AS FCO IS CONCERNED THEIR MAIN WORRY ABOUT ANY "ENHANCEMENT OF THE ROLE OF MAS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF DOCTRINE" STEMS FROM CONCERN ABOUT THE FRENCH REACTION. FRANC IS A MEMBER OF CNAD AND FCO BELIEVES THAT ANY ATTEMPT TO TAKE AWAY FROM CNAD RESPONSIBILITIES "THE FRENCH CAN ENGAGE THEMSELVES IN" BY PUTTING THEM INTO FORA SUCH AS MAS WHICH IS PART OF THE "NATO INTEGRATED MILITARY BUREAUCRACY" -- AND HENCE OUTSIDE OF DIRECT FRENCH INVOLVEMENT --
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"IS A HIGHLY UNDESIRABLE MOVE". THE BRITISH THINK IT IS

UNWISE TO SHIFT ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WILL HAVE THE PRACTICAL EFFECT OF EXCLUDING THE FRENCH. THE FCO CONSIDERS IT UNLIKELY, SAID LEVER, THAT FRANCE CAN MOVE IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE "ANY CLOSER TO THE NATO MILITARY BUREAUCRACY THAN IT ALREADY HAS". NOW THAT FRANCE "IS ENGAGED IN THE EPG", AND IS POLITICALLY MORE IMPORTANT TO NATO TODAY THAN IN THE PAST SINCE IT GIVES FRANCE A MEANS FOR EXPRESSING WITHIN A NATO BODY VIEWS ON MATTERS WHICH COME UP IN A PURELY EUROPEAN CONTEXT IN THE EPG.

2. TOUCHING ON LOGISTICS, LEVER SAID THAT DURING A RECENT VISIT BY PDASY BENNETT (I AND L) MENTION HAD BEEN MADE OF A "CATALOGUE OF LOGISTIC INITIATIVES". LEVER SAID THAT MOD LOGISTICIANS ARE VERY INTERESTED IN "GETTING MORE INFORMATION FROM DOD" AND WOULD LIKE TO HAVE MADE AVAILABLE "AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE" WHATEVER CATALOGUE OF LOGISTIC INITIATIVES OUR AUTHORITIES DEVELOP. ALSO, HE SAID THAT MOD IS VERY INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT "DOD IDEAS FOR MAKING GREATER USE OF NAMSA".

3. COMMENTING ON COMMUNICATIONS SECURITY, LEVER SAID THAT UK SUPPORTED "IN PRINCIPLE" THE ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE OF AN "ALL-DIGITAL, END-TO-END SECURE SYSTEM" USING AUTOMATIC SWITCHING. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT "NATO HAS A HUGE INVESTMENT IN ITS PRESENT EQUIPMENT" AND THAT HMG IS MOST CONCERNED "NOT TO DISCARD ITS SHARE IN THAT INVESTMENT TOO EARLY".

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